

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 100282

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, US

SUBJECT: PARTY PAPER COMMENTS ON CLOSURE OF US FACILITIES
IN ETHIOPIA

REF: DAR 1736

1. EMBASSY SHOULD PROTEST TO TANGOV AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL
THE COMMENTS MADE IN THE SWAHILI-LANGUAGE DAILY UHURU ON
CLOSURE OF US FACILITIES IN ETHIOPIA (REFTEL), WHICH WE FIND
TENDENTIOUS AND INFLAMMATORY.

2. YOU SHOULD STATE THAT THE USG IS NOT ENGAGED IN ANY
PLOTTING AGAINST THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AS ALLEGED BY
THE "UHURU" EDITORIAL, AND THAT THE SUGGESTION OF A POSSI-
BLE "IMPERIALIST PLOT TO ASSASSINATE MENGISTU" GOES FAR
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BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES OF RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISM. YOU SHOULD
ALSO TELL THE TANGOV THAT OUR FACILITIES IN ETHIOPIA WERE
CERTAINLY NOT USED AGAINST ANY AFRICAN OR OTHER COUNTRIES,
AND THAT ALLEGATIONS THAT ISRAELI PLANES TOOK OFF FROM SUCH
"BASES" DURING THE ARAB/ISRAELI WAR ARE PREPOSTEROUS--THE
ONLY MILITARY INSTALLATION UNDER US CONTROL WAS A COMMUNI-
CATIONS FACILITY AT ASMARA, NOT AN AIRBASE OR ANY OTHER

KIND OF MILITARY BASE.

3. THE ARTICLE IS ALSO ERRONEOUS IN CHARGING THAT THE US

HAS "HIT BACK" BY HALTING ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. WE
PLAN TO CONTINUE OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA,
SINCE OUR CONCERN FOR IMPROVING THE LOT OF THE ETHIOPIAN
PEOPLE IS UNAFFECTED BY POLITICAL CHANGE. AS FOR OUR
MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH ETHIOPIA, THE UNILATERAL DE-
CISIONS BY THE EPMG TO CLOSE OUR MAAG AND REPUDIATE OUR
MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT INDICATES AN UNWILLING-
NESS ON THE PART OF THE EPMG TO CONTINUE A MILITARY RELA-
TIONSHIP WITH US, WHATEVER THE US MIGHT WISH TO DO.

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